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Testimony of  
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Submitted to Housing Committee  
February 19, 2013

**SENATE BILL 334 AN ACT CONCERNING BEDBUGS  
SUPPORT**

**HOUSE BILL 5619 AN ACT CONCERNING EXTERMINATION OF BEDBUGS IN  
PUBLIC HOUSING  
SUPPORT A SINGLE BED BUG BILL, DO NOT SUPPORT A SEPARATE SET OF  
RULES FOR HOUSING AUTHORITIES**

**HOUSE BILL 5066 AN ACT CONCERNING DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITY BY TENANTS  
IN PUBLIC HOUSING  
SUPPORT**

*Conn-NAHRO is the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the Connecticut Chapter represents over 112 Connecticut housing authorities and other non-profit and community development member agencies. Member agencies have the responsibility of effectively managing or administering housing for 150,000 families/individuals and over 62,000 housing units in Connecticut.*

Speaking on behalf of Conn-NAHRO's Executive Board and member agencies, I would like to express our support for S.B. 334 & H.B. 5066. We oppose a separate set of rules involving the remediation of bed bugs by housing authorities if that is the intention of H.B. 5619; however we support legislation that would outline the rights and responsibilities of all landlords and tenants.

**SB 334 & HB 5619 ACTS CONCERNING BEDBUGS:**

Conn-NAHRO supports legislation that would provide a set of rules under which tenants and landlords operate in pursuit of the resolution of a mutual problem, bed bug elimination. Present statutory law on insect infestations is found in C.G.S. 47a-7. Bed bugs however, require further framework because the elimination of bed bugs, unlike many other pests, requires the cooperation of the tenant in order for the landlord to succeed in eliminate the bed bugs.

In the 2012 legislative session, S.B. 190 set a needed statutory framework. We would recommend and support the language used 2012 raised bill 190. We are not in favor of a separate bill for public housing as we believe this will complicate the issue and continue an unfair depiction of our public housing residents. The existence of bed bugs crosses all social and economic boundaries and the methods of extermination and preparation do not change based on a person living in public housing.

Therefore we are in favor of advancing legislation that fairly and equitably delineates the responsibilities of all landlords and tenants in eliminating bedbugs.

**HB 5066 AN ACT CONCERNING DRUG-RELATED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY TENANTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING:**

Conn-NAHRO would support passage of state legislation that would mirror the federal one-strike policy that existing in federal public housing properties. The federal one strike policy was passed into law by President Bill Clinton as part of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996.

Passage of a similar legislation would further enhance PHAs' ability to provide safe, decent and drug free housing to all residents. This legislation, which should include the option to allow PHAs to consider all credible evidence in making its decision to commence termination of a lease or to allow it to bifurcate a lease to remove the offending party on a case-by-case basis, is instrumental to providing the best housing for all of its residents through an object review of the facts.